

National Weather Service Declares Boone County StormReady®

June 19, 2012



Officials from the National Weather Service will recognize Boone County on July, 18 2012 for completing a set of rigorous criteria necessary to earn the distinction of being StormReady®. Boone County is one of 34 StormReady communities in the state of Iowa, and one of more than 1900 StormReady communities nationwide.

"StormReady encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness," said Jeff Johnson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Des Moines. "StormReady arms communities, and in this case Boone County, with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property - before and during the event."

The program is voluntary and provides communities and colleges with clear-cut advice from a partnership between local National Weather Service forecast offices and state and local emergency managers. To be recognized as StormReady, a community or college must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Des Moines National Weather Service Meteorologist-in-Charge Brenda Brock and Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Johnson will present Boone County Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Morlan with a recognition plaque and special StormReady sign. The StormReady Dedication is scheduled for Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 12:00 PM at the Courthouse in Boone.

The National Weather Service is dedicated to the protection of life and property and enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events. The National Weather Service is working to build a Weather-Ready Nation through programs such as the StormReady program. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives: when seconds count, StormReady communities are prepared.